Coffman Family

Morris Coffman
8206 Bull Run Ct.
Indianapolis IN 46227

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

September 4, 1997

I am enclosing a research report listing the sources I checked for your ancestors and also some copies. I did find obituaries for Andrew and Louise Coffman. Note that neither one died in Vigo County, although they were former residents and were buried here. Of course, their death certificates should be available from the counties where they died. I also found their marriage record and am sending a copy of the application, which gives the names of their parents.

I found a marriage for Andrew J.'s parents, Andrew and Matilda (Clem) Coffman. However, the marriage records prior to 1882 did not give biographical information. Andrew and Matilda were listed on the 1850 and 1860 Vigo County censuses, but Andrew J. was not born until 1862. According to the stone readings from the New Harmony Cemetery, Andrew Sr. died in 1863. The index to the 1870 Vigo County census does not list Andrew J. or Matilda, and we do not have a statewide index for that census. I also checked the 1870 Vigo County census for Louise's parents, but did not find a Watson family with a daughter the right age. Perhaps they were still in Illinois as Louise was born there in 1867.

There is a coded index, called the Soundex, for the 1880 Indiana census but it only lists families with children age ten or younger. Since Andrew and Louise were over that age it is not helpful in locating them. The Soundexes for the 1900 and 1920 censuses list all residents but do not list an Andrew Coffman with a wife Louise. Do you know when they left this area?

Please send the library $1.63 for the enclosed copies.

Nancy Sherrill
Genealogy Librarian

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
ONE LIBRARY SQUARE
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA 47807

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
One Library Square
Terre Haute IN 47807

DATE: _____

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VIGO CO. LIBRARY RESEARCH REPORT

The item(s) circled below indicate the record(s) searched for the surnames of: Coffman; Andrew Jackson & Louisa Ellen (Watson)
in response to your request of _____.

1. Miscellaneous Card File:
Did not find _____ Found _____

(2.) Surname File:
Did not find _____ Found Coffman Family File - 1958 news article on death of 100 year old Jasper S. Coffman

3. Vigo County, Indiana, Index of Names of Persons and of Firms (in the county histories)
Did not find _____ Found _____

4. Vigo County, Indiana, Marriage Licenses from 1818 to 1850:
Did not find _____ Found _____

(5.) W.P.A. Index to Marriage Record, Vigo County, 1840-1920:
Did not find _____ Found Coffman, Andrew J. & Louise E. Watson Sept 3, 1885 Bk 10 p 83 (over)
WPA Index to Marriage Supplements Kaufman, Andrew J. - Bk 1 p 258 & 259

6. W.P.A. Index to Death Record, Vigo County, 1882-1920:
Did not find _____ Found _____

7. Cemetery Records of Vigo County, Including All Born Prior to 1830 That Lived to Maturity:
Did not find _____ Found _____

(8.) Cemeteries, Vigo County, Indiana (4 vols.):
Did not find _____ Found New Harmony Cemetery vol 3 p 38
No Mahala Watson in any cemetery

9. Woodlawn Cemetery, Terre Haute, Vigo County IN, Index of Burials Vol. 1 1839-1899 vol. 2 1900-March 1983:
Did not find _____ Found _____

(10.) Census Index for the year 1900 & 1920:
Did not find _____ Found 1900 Soundex - No Andrew, A. J. or Jackson Coffman with a wife Louise
1920 Soundex - No Andrew, A. J. or Jackson Coffman with a wife Louise

(over)

✓ (Other): (also check other side)
Obits Andrew Coffman - Dec 7, 1946 Tribune p 2.
Louise Coffman - April 26, 1966 Tribune p 2

#5. No Mahala Harris, No Watson who married a Mahala Andrew Coffman & Matilda Clem 26 May 1846 BK B p 107

#10 1850 Census
Cofman, Andrew - Vigo Co p 265

1860 Census Vigo County only - Andrew Cofman p 379

1870 Census Vigo County only - Coffman, Jackson p 517, only Watson with a daughter Louise was Samuel p 220, but she was age 13. The Jackson Coffman was age 29.

REFERENCE
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Special Collections Coffman Family

Jasper G. Coffman, Centenarian, Dies

T.H. Star 1959

RILEY, Ind., March 12.—(Special.)—Jasper G. Coffman, one of Vigo County's oldest residents, died yesterday morning at 2 o'clock at St. Anthony Hospital. He would have been 101 years old May 12.

For the past seven years he has been living at the Kesler Nursing Home, 724 North Eighth Street, and a few days before his death was taken to the hospital because of illness.

Born on a farm in Fayette Township, Coffman worked on various farms in the area and in 1880 was married to Lilly Bowen, of Sandford. They had two children, one of which died in infancy and the other a boy was killed at the age of 26 in a railroad accident.

Moving to Terre Haute in 1884, Coffman went to work for William Kidder, a prominent business man, in a flour mill.

Coffman remained with Kidder for many years working in a variety of positions and became manager of a large farming enterprise carried out by his employer.

Although Coffman seldom ventured out of the county, he became well known through his church work. He was a lay minister and for many years conducted revival services and served as substitute minister at numerous county churches. He was a member of the Methodist Church.

On his 100th birthday, Coffman was asked the secret of his longevity. His reply was, "A clear conscience from being honest and becoming a man of God."

He is survived by one foster son, Roger Servir, of Pensacola, Fla., and one granddaughter, Mrs. Irene Cesinger, of Riley.

Funeral services will be at 2 o'clock Friday afternoon at the Fox Funeral Home with the Rev. Carl Froderman officiating. Burial will be in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery.

REFERENCE
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VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Coffman Family

Special Collections

Vern D. Hestand
P O Box 7936
Oxnard, CA 93031-7936

April 5, 2000

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

I am writing in response to your inquiry concerning your great-grandmother, Mary Jane Coffman. Your letter says you are searching for a birth record and that she was born in the 1850's. Indiana did not begin officially recording births and deaths until 1882, so there will be no actual birth certificate for your great-grandmother.

Since she was born in the 1850's, the 1860 Census is the first that would include her. As it happens, there is an "every name" index for that year. All names, not just head of household, are given on the index. So I searched for a Mary Jane and a Jacob both on the same census page and found one match. However, the citation is here in Lost Creek Township of Vigo County. I have enclosed the page. As you can see, Jacob (line 5) is 29 and his wife Jane is 23. They have a daughter Mary J. who is three, so she was born ca. 1857.

You will also note, Jacob is not the head of the household. His family and apparently another family (lines 9-14) live with Mary Bradford. She seems to be alone, no male of the right age to be her husband. Perhaps the other families are those of married daughters who have moved in to help with the work. That might explain why Jacob is not in Vermillion County where Clinton is located. (Although Vigo and Vermillion are adjacent and the distance is only a few miles.) This might also be a boarding house situation. If this is the right Jacob and Mary J., perhaps some of these other names are familiar.

I also checked the 1850 Census. At that time there was a Jacob Coffman in Vemillion Co. He was 40 years old, so it is not the same person as mentioned above. Also, the wife's name here is Nancy. There is a daughter Mary who was 14, so she was born in the 1830's. I would doubt that a family would have a Mary and then also name a child Mary Jane, but sometimes if a child died young, the name was given again later as a remembrance. I have included this page also so you can see the full records of both families.

From the information you sent us I can't tell if either of these is the family you are researching. You may have other names or bits of information, which will help to confirm one or the other. If we can be of more assistance, please contact us again. I wish you good luck as you continue to look into your family history.

Jane Margason
Special Collections Librarian

Rec'd 4-3-00
SASE

Vigo County Public Library

29 March 2000

2 @ 30
23 add'l postage
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Dear Librarian;

I've been given information by a gentleman in the Health Department of Vermillion County - regards your being a Guardian of information Vermillion County does not possess.

My interest is of the older days!

I am looking for a birth record of my great grandmother:

MARY JANE Coffman 1850's born in Clinton, Indiana - Vermillion County

Her Father was JACOB Coffman of Clinton, Ind.

I would be pleased To Pay what you need for any search.

If there was a State or County Census could you tell me how To follow up?

Sincerely -

Vern D Hestand, Sr

Mr. Vern D. Hestand
PO Box 7936
Oxnard, CA 93031-7936

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Otter Cr. p280